

Suffield Police Commission

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, April 16, 2008

The regular meeting of the Suffield Police Commission was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at Suffield Police Headquarters, 911 Mountain Road, Suffield, Ct.

Present were: Chairman Don Miner, Commissioners Jack Quinn, Linda Stevenson, Matt Joyal and Peter Hill. Commissioner John Zavisza was absent due to illness. Also present were Chief Michael Manzi, Capt. David Bourque, and Recording Secretary Karen McKown.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Miner.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mr. Miner read the following pieces of correspondence:

- From Mr. Jack Alatalo and Ms. Vickie Spellman to Chief Manzi and Karen, a note thanking them for assistance with reference letter required for a trip to Spain.
- From Janice Coll (sp?) to Officer Peter Osowiecki and the R.A.D. (rape aggression defense) team for a class recently taught by them.
- From Betsy Allen Spratt to Chief Manzi, commending Lt. Huntley and Ofc. Osowiecki for their assistance with an issue regarding Ms. Spratt's mother and her health care provider.
- From Chief David Watkins, Granby Police to Chief Manzi, commending Officers Barbara Reynolds, Ryan Burrell and Peter Osowiecki for their involvement with a run-away youth from Granby who was reported to be harming himself. The young man was located in Suffield after 2 ½ hrs of searching, and was referred for medical care.

PUBLIC INPUT: NONE

MINUTES OF APRIL, 2008 MEETING:

Mr. Miner stated that the names of Chief Manzi and Capt. Bourque did not appear in the minutes, showing them as being in attendance during the executive session. There were no other corrections or additions, and **Mr. Quinn motioned to accept the minutes** as revised, seconded by Ms. Stevenson, and approved by unanimous vote.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

BUDGET AND FINANCE – Capt Bourque reported that:

- Some credits returned to payroll are not shown in the report to the commission, as they were posted after the report was distributed.
- \$3,400 dollars has been returned to payroll.

- About \$14,000 from worker's comp has not been credited back.
- Additionally, \$23,000 in retroactive money has not yet been posted.
- The issue with diesel fuel remains unresolved, and the high usage of regular gasoline is still being monitored. The rest of the budget is on track.
- The Chief has decided to move forward with the D.W.I grant.

K-9 Officer Osowiecki spoke about a seminar held recently at the Hilltop Campus in town. He said an individual who is an expert in the legal aspect of dog-handling in policing spoke at the seminar, attended by approximately 65 dog-handlers and other department's administrators. Additionally, there is a K-9 competition scheduled, in which Officer Osowiecki will participate.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER – Chief Manzi said Officer Antrum is acclimating to his assignment as resource officer. There is a grant that may be applied for called “Fatal Vision”, a hands-on program for students, dealing with night vision, using glasses that also mimic the vision of a driver impaired by alcohol. Another food drive was recently held, and it was very successful.

Mr. Miner's son Geoff, a Suffield Police Explorer in Officer Antrum's Explorer program reported that he and a few other explorers have been involved with the state, trying to see if alcohol is being sold to minors from package stores, supermarkets and bars.

EVALUATION – Officer Kieselback continues to receive outstanding monthly evaluations.

ACTIVITY REPORT – This agenda item was postponed until towards the end of the meeting due to paperwork issue.

DETECTIVE BUREAU – Reviewed in “Chief's report”

Ms. Stevenson motioned to accept the department reports as submitted, seconded by Mr. Hill and passed by unanimous vote.

CHIEF'S REPORT –

- The Chief reported that Officer John Shelanskas has resigned as a supernumerary after 17 years of service, for personal reasons. The Chief said he will be missed and if he should decide to return prior to his certification expiring, he will be welcomed back.
- The Chief and Captain recently attended a program dealing with street gangs.
- Chief Manzi said there have already been reports of illicit sexual activity at the Canal Road park area. The Chief said extra attention will be paid to that area to discourage this type of activity.
- Chief Manzi spoke about how new legislation regarding the handling of juvenile offenders will impact the department. He emphasized how extremely difficult he anticipates this will become.
- Regarding the town bio-diesel issue, the regional accident construction team surveyed the intersection of Rt. 75/Austin St. While the team was there, about 7 18-wheelers attempted to make the turn from north 75 onto Austin, and none of them made the turn without difficulty. The resolution to this problem could be to “cut the corner” making the turn onto Austin Street easier. Additionally, the Chief has been fielding citizen's concerns about railroad traffic, and how it relates to the biodiesel issue. He said the

addition of any railcars at this time would result in a minimal inconvenience. He also said the town has no jurisdiction with regard to the train tracks. The Chief said the department remains neutral on the issue of the biodiesel plant.

- Chief Manzi reported that vehicle break-ins are on the rise, again. Some suspects have been identified.
- The Chief said he met with the police union and ironed out some scheduling issues. He felt both sides were satisfied with the outcome.
- Two new recruits doing well.
- Detective Bureau – The Chief briefly spoke of an attempted burglary/larceny on Thrall Ave.

Capt. Bourque presented a corrected activity report. Discussion involved time-on-call, and activity regarding motor vehicles, such as stops, accidents and D.W.I arrests.

Mr. Quinn motioned to accept the department reports, seconded by Mr. Joyal and approved by unanimous approval.

CHAIRMAN COMMENT –

Mr. Miner commented that a conviction was handed down to an intoxicated driver who caused a serious accident on Mountain Road, a number of weeks back. Capt. Bourque stated that the accident reconstruction team has a of 100% conviction rate.

Mr. Miner began a discussion of goals and objectives by both the commission and the dept. administrators. He suggested approximately 6 high level goals that could be clearly articulated that are measurable, time based and realistic showing what direction the department is going in. There was extended discussion regarding this process. Mr. Miner stated that a letter of thanks was sent to Ms. Jennifer Hill who spoke at last month's commission meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

At 9:35, Mr. Quinn motioned to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Stevenson. The motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Karen McKown

Donald Miner, Chairman

Recording Secretary